

CLAIMS:

1. A method of reducing noise in images formed by uniform regions and textures delimited by edges, the method comprising, in parallel, the steps of:

- filtering said images, and
- detecting edges and textures in these images,
- 5 - and a selection step of eliminating or, in contrast, applying said filtering to each image pixel according to whether this image pixel is associated or not associated with an edge or a texture,

characterized in that the method comprises, at the end of the step of detecting edges and textures, a sub-step of re-assigning or not re-assigning each image pixel to an edge or a texture in accordance with the result of a connectivity test.

2. A computer program which can be executed by means of a processor intended to carry out a noise reduction method as claimed in claim 1.

15 3. A system for processing images formed by uniform regions and textures, delimited by edges, the system comprising, in parallel:

- a device for filtering said images;
- a device for detecting edges and textures in these images,
- and a selection device for eliminating or, in contrast, applying said filtering to each image pixel according to whether this image pixel is associated or not associated with an edge or a texture,

20 characterized in that the system comprises, at the output of said device for detecting edges and textures, a connectivity test device for re-assigning or not re-assigning each image pixel to an edge or a texture in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

25 4. A system for processing images as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said connectivity test device comprises a mask filter, a comparator to compare the output of this filter with a predetermined number and a decision circuit for assigning or not assigning each image pixel to an edge or a texture in accordance with the result of said comparison.

5. A video encoding sequence of the MPEG type preceded by a noise reduction method as claimed in claim 1, or by a system for processing images as claimed in claim 3.

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